



Parish Matters

Welcome...

to our weekly edition of Parish Matters – we hope you enjoy catching up with news and prayers from the Parish.

Sunday 17th December

The Third Sunday of Advent

This week's special prayers

The collect of the week

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Eco Church Prayer for December

God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory. Deepen our gratitude for all you have made and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other. Inspire world leaders at COP28, with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and with courage to act urgently and wisely, so that our common home may be healed and restored and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it. Amen

Welcome to today's service

Prayers

Prayers & Readings: Monthly prayers and the daily lectionary readings are available in Sunrise and on the parish website. www.potr-alton.co.uk

Prayer Cascade. If you need prayer for any reason please contact pray4potr@gmail.com. A prayer team will pray regularly for each request. Please pray for each person by name.

Those who are ill and require prayer: Bethan, Gwen Pettigrew, Charlotte, Jenny Thompson, Sarah Broadbent, Sally Stoodley, Dennis Milns, Alex Cannon, Paddy Mendham, Jennifer Arnold, Jill, Jenny Lawrence, Judith Shadey, Ben and David.

If you or someone you know would like to be included here please let Philippa Penfold know (office@potr-alton.co.uk)

Those who are bereaved – families and friends of Brigit Hayes, Thelma Butland, Eric Pritchett, Douglas Warner, Elizabeth Crow, Carol Murrell, Pearl Dorey, Roger Tibble, Leo Hill and George Littlewood,

Proclaiming the Risen Jesus, Steadfast in faith, Active in Service

This week's extra Services

- **Facebook Live Morning Prayer** Monday to Friday 9am @POTRALton
- **St Lawrence Teddies** Monday morning 9.30am in St Lawrence Church
- **GAP Traidcraft Coffee Morning**, every Tuesday from 10-12 at Alton Methodist Church
- **Holybourne Coffee morning** followed by Prayers on Tuesday 10am-11.45am (Prayers 11:45 am to 12 noon) at Church of the Holy Rood.
- **Holybourne Teddies** in Holybourne Church on Wednesday 9.45am
- **Holy Communion** at All Saints at 10am on Wednesday

Please see our website www.potr-alton.co.uk for a full list of church services, news and events for this month.

News and notices

The Christmas Tree Festival The 12th Christmas Tree Festival was our best ever with 80 beautiful trees and a church full of happy visitors. The organ played merrily and there was even sweet singing in the choir. Even though there is never a charge for anything, the donations of the good people of Alton came to an amazing **£1250.77** all of which will be divided equally between Homestart and the Alton Community Relief Foundation. I can hardly thank you all enough for making it such a great success. Whatever part you played. It truly was a team effort. Stick around because the rumour is there will be another one next year! Elaine Cook

POTR Christingle a big thank you to all who attended the Christingle service – the church was full! And thank you to all who so generously donated a total of £252.85 for the Children's Society. My thanks also to Sue Burrows and Pippa Mills who helped me make up the 100 Christingle bags. Carol Williams.

Christmas Services Please see our website for our services over Christmas or there are cards in our churches. We have a Carol service this evening (17th December) at **6pm in Holybourne Church** and one in St Lawrence Church on **Thursday 22nd December at 7pm**. On **New Year's Eve** (Sunday 31st December) there will be only one service and that will be at **Alton Methodist Church at 10am**. Revd Philip Simpkins will be leading and Revd Jon Rooke will be preaching. Everyone is welcome.

Associate Vicar Appointment We interviewed recently and we have agreed an appointment which is very good news. At this stage certain checks are being made and we are conscious that Christmas is a difficult time for the 'person' to announce they are leaving where they are. Therefore the announcement of who it is will be made on Sunday 7th January. We hope that the new person will move into the Holybourne Vicarage during February and will be licensed to begin here with us just after Easter.

Advent Reflections As we journey through the season of advent, the Church of the Good Shepherd in Four Marks are putting together some short daily reflections with local clergy and licensed ministers. These reflections will be shown on You Tube. You can follow this link to watch the reflection each day. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZJRXMo1sNUTLOrrx7xY9Edpx2WCxY2BI>

Christmas Card Boards - as in previous years there will be boards in each of the churches for your Christmas cards to the rest of the parish. Please consider sending one card to your friends in the church as it saves on the number of cards which have to be recycled so is great for the environment. Boards will be in place from the beginning of December. The Eco Church Team

Pop-Up Carols 2023 on a green space near you. Pop-Up Carols has now started for this year! We continue popping up until the **20th of December**. These evenings will take place in various green spaces throughout Alton, Beech and Holybourne. Please see our website for dates, times and locations. www.potr-alton.co.uk/pop-up-carols-2023/ You are welcome to attend any of the sessions but the POTR team will be leading the events at Hop Fields this Monday and The White Hart on Tuesday. The Treloars students really enjoyed their event last week with 70 children and 50 young adults from the school and college joining in! A really fun session.

The Alton's Women's Refuge wishes to thank everyone who has so kindly continued to donate items throughout this year. If anyone would like to donate Christmas gifts to the refuge, they are in need of pens, pencils, plain paper and general toiletries, including some items for early teenage boys would be welcome. These can be left in the box at the back of St Lawrence Church. Thank you for your generosity.

POTR Advent Window Trail is now in full swing. A new Advent window will be revealed each day leading up to Christmas Eve. The windows will be lit up between 4pm to 7pm for you to go and enjoy! The trail will take you around Alton and Holybourne. To see a list of the locations and an interactive map, please go to our website www.potr-alton.co.uk/potr-advent-windows-2023/

Alton Foodbank. The Foodbank has been blessed by numerous schools and other organisations who gave their Harvest Collections to them and their warehouse is looking fairly well stocked but they are still in need of tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, long life fruit juice, tinned custard, sponge puddings (long life), tinned rice pudding, sanitary towels and tampons

Curious about Faith? We have a new Alpha course starting on **Monday 8th January** at Alton Maltings brought to you by Alton Churches. The evening will start at 7pm with a free meal, followed by a video and chance to chat and ask questions about faith. It's free of charge so why not come and check it out? For more information email alptonplusalpha@gmail.com

Next Sunday Service 24th December - Christmas Eve

3pm	Crib Service	Holybourne Church
4pm	Crib Service	St Lawrence Church
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Holybourne Church
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Lawrence Church
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Mary's, Bentworth

The Ministry Team

Vicar: Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield andrew@potr-alton.co.uk 88794
Assistant Priest: Revd Bruce Nicole revbrucenicole@gmail.com 07974 021764
Assistant Priest: Revd Peter Brown petelaine@btinternet.com 01420 549943
Assistant Priest: Revd Lynn Power revlynnpower@outlook.com 07850 232995
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General Enquiries to the Parish Administrators Philippa Penfold & Ellie Elder

Office email address office@potr-alton.co.uk **01420 513881**

The Parish Office (in All Saints Church Hall) will be open Monday to Thursday between 9am – 12pm.

The office will then be closed until Tuesday 2nd January for the Christmas break.

QR CODE! Your donation helps sustain our buildings, ministry, youth work and much more. Your donation can also be gift aided. Why not give it a go using this QR code. Thank you!

